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present, in virile fashion, the arguments pro and con. These arguments are presented by those ardently supporting or opposing the measures, as the case may be, the volume being fairly well divided as to the space given to the opponents and proponents of these measures. The book is interesting and should be of great value at the present time.

It is always easy to point out omissions in such a volume as this, but most to be regretted is the omission of all discussion as to the statutory provisions for the initiative, referendum and recall. However, they are amply defined and illustrated and hence for general interest this omission may not be so serious. Those who wish to make a technical and detailed comparative study of such provisions can readily obtain them in such volumes as "Documents on the Initiative, Referendum and Recall" by Beard and Schultz.

This is the second number of the National Municipal League Series, edited by Clinton Rogers Woodruff, the first being on "City Government by Commission," and the third on "The Regulation of Municipal Utilities." The League plans other volumes which will give an open forum for the discussion of other current municipal problems. The League is unquestionably performing most valuable service in getting such a series before the public.

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Notestein, W. *A History of Witchcraft in England from 1558 to 1718.* Pp. xiv, 442. Price \$1.50. Washington: American Historical Association, 1911.

In this monograph Professor Notestein enters upon a field where few serious historical students have preceded him. He does not attempt to treat all phases of the subject in this pioneer work, but confines his attention to "a narrative history of the more significant trials along with some account of the progress of opinion" (p. v). Following a method of analysis of contemporary accounts of trials and of writings on the theory of witchcraft, he notes the fluctuations of popular belief in the superstition and of the administration of the law against witches in the 160 years which marked the height of the movement as well as its final decline in England. In the course of the narrative light is thrown on such topics as the spread of outbreaks against witches, the character and personality of those accused of the offense, the causes of such accusations, the nature of the evidence admitted and the use of torture in trials, and the changes in the conception of what constituted witchcraft.

The work is based on wide and painstaking research in a variety of sources. Among the most important of these are the contemporary pamphlet accounts of trials. Published to meet the demands of what to-day would be the newspaper-reading public, they dwell at length on the harrowing details, usually with little attempt at accuracy or impartiality. To the use of this difficult material the author seems to have applied discretion and sound judgment. He is careful to indicate what conclusions are to be considered tentative, and to distinguish between inference and fact. The general result is a scholarly and interesting account of a typical phase of the life of the period.

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